

MINUTES

OF THE

TENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Shelby Baptist Association

HELD WITH

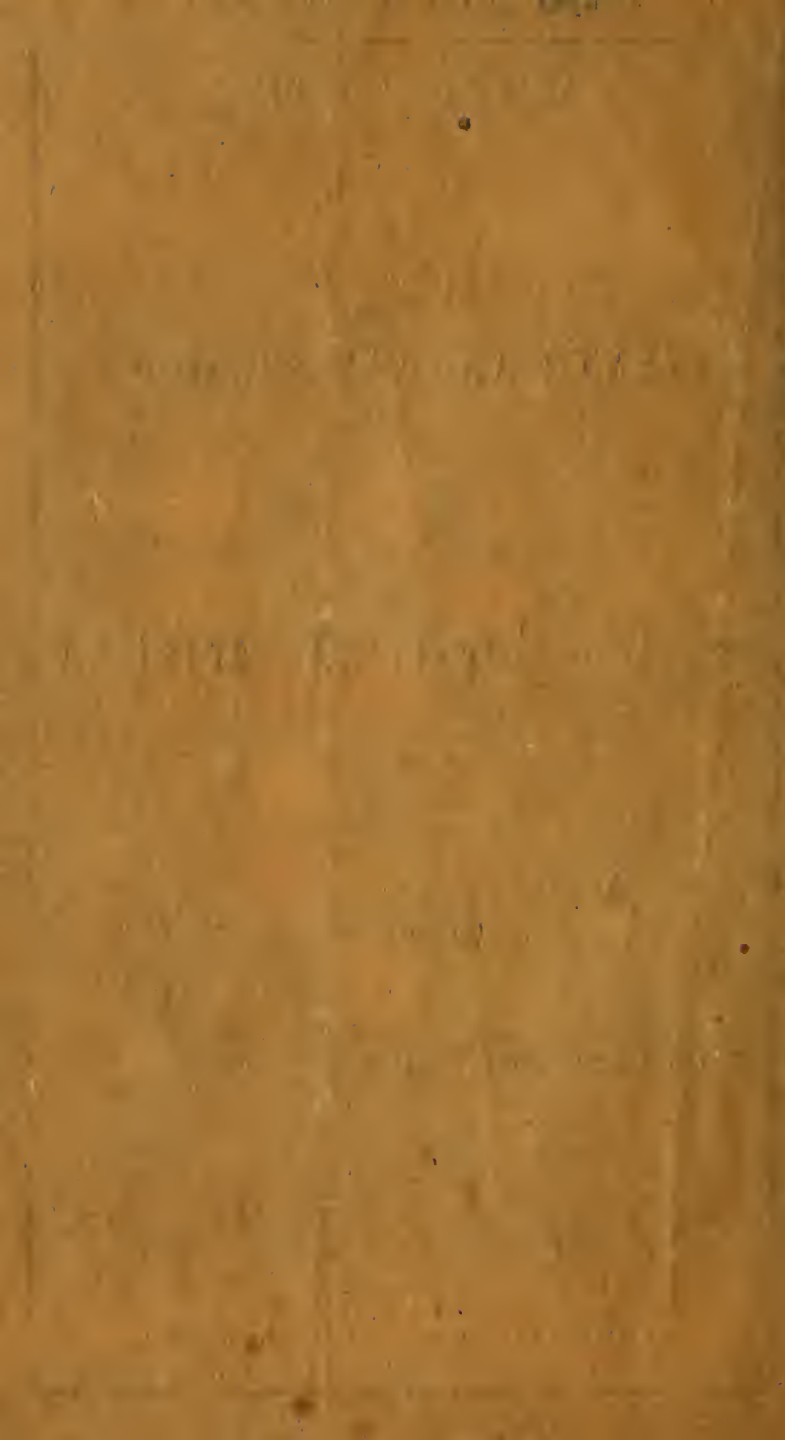
LIBERTY CHURCH, SHELBY COUNTY, ALA.,

On the 12th, 14th and 15th of October, 1861.



SELMA:

WILLIAMS & CUSSONS, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS,
1861.



MINUTES

The Delegates to the "Shelby Association of Baptist Churches," met at Liberty Church on Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1861.

Introductory sermon preached by Elder T. P. Holcomb, from the Second Epistle of Paul to Timothy, 2: 4; after which the delegates assembled in a School House near by, and were called to order by the former Moderator, and the Association opened by prayer, by Elder Norris.

Letters from the Churches were then called for, received and read, and the names of the delegates enrolled, to-wit:

Bethesda—N. J. Norris, *William Wilkins, J. D. TEAGUE.

Beaver Creek—Wesley Armstrong, James Gould, John Russell.

Beulah—James S. Duycke, *James H. Byers, D. A. Baker.

Liberty—T. P. HOLCOMB, J. R. GILBERT, J. H. R. GARDEN, A. Adams.

Columbiana—*A. Parnell, *A. Grubbs, A. A. Sterrett.

Mount Pisgah—JAMES P. FULMER, *Robert Martin, *James M. Raudles, S. A. Goss.

Mount Calvary—John Davis, *Blanton Moore, W. W. Armstrong, William Price.

Pleasant Hill—Joseph Vanderslice, *John Burk, *J. S. Pickens, J. Y. Willis.

Friendship—Levi Armstrong, W. K. Deshazo, *S. Brasher.

Concord—*William D. Shirley, James Kendrick, G. W. Welden.

Union—*Levi Lawley, *F. M. Holsomback, H. W. Bowers.

Providence—*A. Norris, T. J. FREEMAN, T. E. MERONY.

Cahaba Valley—R. Wood, John Bailey, *T. L. Miles.

Enon—Jackson Trucks, Hiram McKinney, N. H. Thompson.

Monterello—E. King, *N. HAGGARD, R. D. Faggard.

Cahaba—Garland Jones, J. B. Glenn, Phillip A. D. Smith.

Dogwood Grove—Avery Lawley, W. F. Deloche, James H. Holsomback, E. Lovelady.

Limerille—D. T. SEALE, T. J. Roberson, Benjamin S. Armstrong.

*Six Mile**—J. C. D. Trott, William J. Peters, *P. A. Kendrick.

Mount Pleasant—H. W. INZER, E. G. Cook, *William Abbercrombie, W. W. Thackerson.

Proceeded to the election of a Moderator and Clerk. Elder T. P. Holcomb re-elected Moderator, and A. A. Sterrett, Clerk.

The Constitution, Abstract of Principles, and Rules of Decorum of the Association read.

An invitation to newly constituted churches, or those dismissed from other Associations, to join this, given—when *Cook's Spring*, St. Clair county, by her messengers, Levi Perry, Thomas Hazelwood and J. R. Lipp—*Pleasant Grove*,

Shelby county, by her messengers, *J. L. Brasher, Asa Wyett* and *Larkin Vandivere*—and *Mount Zion*, dismissed from the Mulberry Association, by her messengers, *J. A. Mullins, F. M. Vines* and *A. M. Mullins*, petitioned by letters for admission, and said churches being found orthodox upon their abstract principles, were severally received by the Moderator extending to the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

A committee was appointed, consisting of Brethren *Wood, Carden, Peters, Fulmer* and *Gilbert*, to divide the Association into three districts, and to enquire into the expediency of holding district meetings.

Correspondence from other Associations called for, and Letters and Messengers. *J. A. Mullens* and *Willis Langston* received from the Mulberry Association.

Committees appointed to arrange preaching during the Association, consisting of Brethren *Duycke, Peters, Deloche*, and the deacons of *Liberty Church*. To arrange business for the Association, Brethren *King, Carden, Teague, Wood*, the Moderator and Clerk. On Finance, Brethren *Bowers* and *Norris*; and on Documents, *Teague, Carden* and *Inzer*.

The committee on Preaching reported Brother *Mullins* to preach to-night, to be followed by Brother *Norris*.

After singing and prayer by Brother *Wood*, adjourned until 9½ o'clock, A. M., Monday.

Sunday morning the Association and congregation met in the Church by previous appointment, at an early hour, and engaged in prayer in behalf of our soldiers, who have gone into the service of their country, and for our country's deliverance from oppression; after which the following Brethren preached according to arrangement of committee: Brother *D. T. Seale* the Missionary sermon, from *Romans 10: 13, 14* and *15*, at the close of which a collection was taken for Domestic Missions, of \$12 00. In the afternoon Brother *R. Wood* preached to a large and attentive congregation, and at night Brother *T. J. Freeman* occupied the stand, followed by Brother *Merony*, and preached to an attentive congregation. May God bless the labors of the day.

MONDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK, A. M.

Association met according to adjournment, and after prayer by Bro. *Inzer*, proceeded to business.

Called the roll and marked absentees

The Committee on Arrangements made their report as to order of business, which was received and adopted, and Committee discharged.

Brother Seale offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That the Association request the several Churches composing this body to observe the first Saturday in each month as a day of solemn fasting and prayer to Almighty God for the health and morals of our army, the success of our arms, and the speedy acknowledgment of the independence of the Confederate States of America, and the return of peace.

Resolution adopted.

After singing and prayer by the Moderator, adjourned until 9 o'clock. A. M., to-morrow.

TUESDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK, A. M.

Association met according to adjournment, and opened by prayer by Bro. W. W. Armstrong; when, in conclusion of the subject had under consideration and left undisposed of yesterday, the following preamble and resolution was adopted, to-wit :

Learning from Bro. D. T. Seale that he holds to the doctrine of apostacy, and that baptism is essential to the salvation of the believer in Christ, this Association, believing Bro. Seale to be in error in his views on said subject,

Resolved, By this Association, that we earnestly request Bro. Seale to re-examine and investigate said subject; and that we call the attention of *Limerille Church*, of which Bro. Seale is a member, to the fact, and recommend said church to take such action in the premises as they, in their wisdom, and in accordance with the word of God, may think necessary and proper.

Resolved, To continue correspondence with, and appointed Brethren J. H. R. Carden, H. W. Inzer, G. W. Jones and J. R. Gilbert messengers to Canaan Association; Brethren T. E. Merony and J. A. Mullins to the Mulberry Association; and Brethren J. D. Teague, J. H. R. Carden and A. A. Sterrett to the Coosa River Association.

Appointed the next session of this body to be held with *Dogwood Grove Church*, about four miles Northwest of Montevallo, on the Tuscaloosa road, on Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1862.

The Committee appointed to divide the Association into three districts, made the following report, to-wit :

The Committee appointed to district the Association, having considered the same, report First District to be composed of *Enon, Six Mile, Cahaba Valley, Montevallo, Providence, Dogwood Grove, Union and Cahaba* churches.

Second District—*Mount Zion, Pleasant Hill, Beaver Creek, Columbiana, Mount Calvary, Limerille and Bethesda* churches.

Third District—*Beulah, Pleasant Grove, Concord, Mount Pleasant, Mount Pisgah, Friendship, Liberty and Cook's Spring* churches.

The Committee also recommend district meetings to be held annually in each district: In the First District, at *Dogwood Grove Church*, Saturday before the second Sabbath in September, 1862. In the Second District, at *Beaver Creek Church*, Saturday before the third Sunday in August, 1862; and in the Third District at *Pleasant Grove Church*, on Saturday before the third Sunday in July, 1862. The report was adopted.

The Committee on Home Missions made the following report, to-wit :

The Executive Committee of the Shelby Association, on Home Missions, respectfully submit the following of Missionary operations for the year 1861.

On the first Saturday in March, 1861, the Committee met at Brother Jordan Jones', for the purpose of appointing the Missionaries, and assigning to each the number of days required to labor, and the field of labor. They were allowed to hold protracted meetings in addition to the number of days assigned; their reports, however, do not show that protracted meetings were held by any, except Elder D. T. Seale. The whole number of days's labor performed by the Missionaries is one hundred and twenty, including twenty-four days extra labor of Bro. Gilbert, and twelve days of Bro. G. W. Jones, who, though not appointed one of the Missionaries, reports having spent this time in such labor profitably in our bounds, in a neighborhood pretty much destitute. From their reports, twenty-one conversions and fourteen baptisms resulted from their labors. The Chairman reports funds received and expended as follows, as believed correct, to-wit :

Left on hand after paying for Missionary labor for 1860.....	\$ 61 65
Collection on Sabbath of Association for 1860.....	11 40
Bro. Sterrett's pledge for Columbiana Church,.....	25 00
Pledge from Liberty Church,.....	15 00
By Edmund King,.....	15 00
Collection on Sabbath of Association for 1861,.....	12 00
Sent up by Churches for Missions,.....	4 50
Paid by Brother Duycke,.....	1 00
Received of Clerk, balance in his hands, of funds received in 1860,.....	14 75
Total,.....	\$160 30

Paid for Missionary labor, for 1861, to Elder T. J. Freeman..	\$15 00
“ Elder D. T. Seale,.....	15 00
“ “ J. R. Gilbert,.....	48 00
“ “ T. P. Holcomb,.....	10 00
“ “ H. W. Inzer,.....	20 00
“ “ Garland W. Jones,.....	12 00
Total,.....	\$120.00

Leaving a balance in my hands of..... \$40 30

E. KING, *Chairman*.

Which report, after hearing the reports from the several Missionaries, was adopted.

Called for the Circular Letter, which was presented, read and adopted, to-wit :

CIRCULAR LETTER.

DEAR BRETHREN :—The subject to which your attention is called, is the importance of living more devoted to the cause of Christ. Now, while we, as a denomination, believe that the Scriptures of Divine Truth teach that when the heart is changed there is no falling away, yet at the same time their frequent and earnest exhortations to obedience and fidelity, warn us that we may fail to discharge many of the important duties which their great and benevolent Giver has enjoined upon us, and especially during such times as the present, when there are interests of such magnitude and importance, calculated in their nature to

draw our minds away ; it is important, then, that our minds be called and frequently directed specially to the subject. The great end and object, or purpose for which we were created is to glorify God, and to make preparation in this present life for that which is to come. This life is one of trouble and pain, of sorrow and disappointment at best ; and when surrounded with all the blessings which it can afford, honored with all its highest honors, or placed in the most favorable circumstances which it has the power of bestowing, it cannot afford us solid and lasting comfort. We look forward to a more sure and desirable inheritance—one which is incorruptible, undefiled, and which fadeth not away. It is, then, dear Brethren, of the utmost importance that we avail ourselves of all the means which God has so graciously provided to enable us to discharge, in the best and strictest manner possible, our several and various duties in this present world, and to prepare us for that rest which he has reserved for his own people. Our relation to God, and the consideration of what he has done for us, aside from our creation and preservation, place us under the most binding obligation to live in unshaken obedience and fidelity to whatever He requires of us ; and to us, as a body of Christians, is committed an extensive work. We are not only required to look after our own soul's salvation, and our own personal happiness, but we are required to look after the present and eternal welfare of others. Our Savior, addressing himself to the Church, says : "Ye are the light of the world, the salt of the earth." Do we properly understand the import of these words ? and if so, do we fully realize the responsibility which they lay upon us ? Again, when we turn our attention to the Holy Scriptures, and there examine the standard of Christianity laid down by the inspired writers, and narrowly examine our own hearts and lives, how far short shall we fall of this—how weak is our love to God—how inconstant and how loth to live in obedience to his commands.—Let us, then, urge upon all the importance of, and strive ourselves for, a closer walk with God—of cultivating a more extensive acquaintance with the Holy Scriptures, and a greater desire for holiness. How, then, is this to be done ? how are we to become more holy and more assimilated to the likeness of Jesus ? It is simple—it is easy. God in His mercy has given us a revelation of His will in the Holy Scriptures ; it applies to all conditions and circumstances in life.—Let us take it, study and practice its precepts, praying for the assistance of the Holy Spirit to aid us and help our infirmity. A. P.

Appointed Brother R. Wood to preach the next introductory sermon, J. D. Teague, alternate ; Bro. J. D. Teague the next Missionary sermon, T. P. Holcomb alternate.

Brethren E. King, J. H. R. Carden, W. W. Armstrong, T. J. Robinson and James S. Dnyeke appointed the Missionary Committee for the next Associational year.

The Committee on Documents, report :

That the Letters from the Churches to the Association contain accounts of but few revivals during the Associational year. They generally express and deplore a state of coldness ; and some have difficulties. They rejoice, however, to learn that there are a few Churches that have Sabbath Schools, and recommend to all the other Churches in the Association to follow their example where it can be done ; and that they report to the next session. They also recommend the Churches and brethren throughout the bounds of the Association to patronize those papers and books published in the Confederate States that advocate the doctrines peculiar to our denomination.

J. D. TEAGUE, *Chairman.*

The Report was adopted.

The Committee on Finance reported as sent up by the Churches for Minutes, \$29 55 ; for Associational purposes, \$20 80 ; and for Missions, \$5 50 ; said Committee directed to pay to the Clerk the sums sent up for Minutes and Associational purposes, \$50 35, which is done ; and to Brother King, of the Missionary Committee, the sum sent for Missions, \$5 50, which is also done ; and the Clerk directed to have 1,000 copies of Minutes printed, and reserve 100 for correspondence ; and that he be allowed \$10 00 for his services. Also directed the Clerk

to pay over to Brother King for Missionary purposes, \$14 75, excess in his hands, of the funds received at our last session, for payment of Minutes of said session, which is also done.

The Committee on Temperance report: We deplore the fact that some of the members of our Churches continue to indulge in the erroneous and dangerous habit of dram drinking, and others of vendingspirituous liquors to be thus used. We therefore *again* earnestly recommend to the Churches that they deal with such as offenders, and that they labor with them to reclaim them; and if they persist in such course (except it be for medicinal purposes) to exclude them; and we further recommend that our Brethren take and read a Temperance paper, and we further recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That this Association will hold fellowship with no Church that violates the above report.

The Report was adopted.

On motion, the Churches composing this body are requested to state in their letters the amount contributed by them for pastoral purposes.

Resolved, That we earnestly recommend the Churches of this body to hold weekly prayer meetings in their respective Churches; and that all heads of families, and members of our Churches are requested to have prayer night and morning in their respective families.

Resolved, That the following be added to our abstract of principles: "We believe that the saints shall be preserved in Grace, and never finally fall away," and that the Abstract, as thus amended, be published with the Minutes.

On motion, *Resolved*, That we recommend to the Churches to raise as much funds as may be necessary to carry on the Mission in our bounds as heretofore determined on; and that they pay the same to the Missionary Committee, or send up to our next session as much as they can raise for this purpose.

Brother J. H. R. Carden appointed to write the next Circular letter.

Resolved, That this Association express their thanks to the members of Liberty Church, and the citizens in the vicinity, for their kindness and hospitality during the sitting of this body.

At the request of Providence Church, the following obituary notice of our late Brother, Levi A. Honeycutt, deceased, is ordered to be published in the Minutes of the proceedings of this session.

DIED, at his residence in Shelby County, Ala., on the 5th of November, 1860, Rev. LEVI A. HONEYCUTT. He was born in Bibb County, Ala., on the 29th of December, 1827. About the year 1848 he was married to Miss Harriet B. Collier, of Lauderdale County, Miss. Shortly after this they both united with Mount Gilead Baptist Church, and subsequently moved to Shelby County, Ala., where they soon won the respect and confidence of nearly all who knew them. Brother Honeycutt soon gave evidence to the people of God, that he was called to the Ministry. He was ordained to this great work on the 12th of June, 1859. His ministerial career was short, but marked with zeal and energy. He labored as a Domestic Missionary for the Shelby Association, in the year 1860; and the Lord has been pleased to bless his labors most wonderfully. In his death, the Church at Providence has lost one of her most efficient Ministers—the Masonic Fraternity a promising member,

and his family a kind husband and most affectionate father. Besides a faithful companion, he left six little children, (two of which died soon after) and a large circle of friends, who mourn his loss from among them; but they sorrow not as those who have no hope. He was not rich in wordly goods, yet his house was for years the Ministers' home, and many have turned in and found a comfortable retreat with this good man and his interesting family.

Far from affliction, toil and care,
The happy soul has fled;
The breathless clay shall slumber here
Among the silent dead.
The Gospel was his joy and song,
E'en to his latest breath—
The Truth he had proclaimed so long,
Was his support in death.

Now he resides where Jesus'is,
Above this dusky sphere—
His soul was ripened for that bliss,
While yet he sojourned here.
The Church's loss we all deplore,
And shed the falling tear,
Since we shall see his face no more,
'Till Jesus shall appear.

N. R. MITCHELL.

At the request of Benlah Church, a member of this body, it is made known that Calvin Bass, late a member of said Church, obtained a letter of dismission therefrom, and still holds the same, though subsequently by said Church in Conference excluded.

After singing and prayer by Brother T. J. Freeman, adjourned. T. J. HOLCOMB, *Moderator*.

A. A. SERRETT, *Clerk*.

TO SISTER ASSOCIATIONS:

Receive this, our Letter, with our Minutes and Messengers, as a token of our Christian regard towards you, and the expression of our desire to continue correspondence with you.

Viewing ourselves as co-workers in the great cause of Truth, and as gentle yet firm opposers of error, we wish to keep a close alliance.

Our Minutes will advise you of the state of our Churches. Our next session will be held with Dogwood Grove Church, about four miles Northwest of Montevallo, on the Tuscaloosa road, on Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1862, at which time meet with us. May God bless you abundantly. Amen.

T. P. HOLCOMB, *Moderator*.

A. A. STERRITT, *Clerk*.

ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES OF THE SHELBY ASSOCIATION OF BAPTIST CHURCHES.

1. We believe there is only one True and Living God; and that there are three persons in the Godhead—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only proper rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe that Election is the gracious and eternal purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end—that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God, and entire imitation of His free mercy; that it is ascertained by its effect on all who believe the Gospel is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves, demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin, and that man is incapable of recovering himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by his own free will and ability.

5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.

6. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects of the ordinances; and that Immersion only is Christian baptism.

7. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment; and that the joys of the righteous and punishment of the impenitent sinner, will be eternal.

8. We believe that no Minister should administer the ordinances of the Gospel, only such as are called and come under the imposition of hands by a presbytery, and in full fellowship with the Church of which he is a member.

9. We believe that none but regularly baptized persons have a Scriptural right to partake of the Lord's Supper.

10. We believe that the Saints shall be preserved in Grace, and never fall finally away.

STATISTICS OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	C'NTY.	PASTORS.	Sabbath of Meeting	Rec'd by Baptism.	Rec'd by Letter.	Restored.	Dis'm'd by Letter.	Excluded.	Died.	Present Number.	Paid for Minutes.	Paid for Association purposes.	Paid for Missions.
FIRST DISTRICT.													
Enan.....	Bibb....	J L Adams.	2d	9	4	3	8	..	..	64	1 50	1 50	....
Six Mile.....	"	R Wood....	4th	7	8	..	..	..	1	33	2 00	....	....
Cahaba Valley..	"	R Wood....	1st	2	2	..	4	..	..	81	1 50	1 00	....
Montevallo....	Shelby..	J A Collins.	1st	3	4	..	10	2	..	59	1 50	1 50	....
Providence....	"	J F Brazel.	2d	7	7	..	..	1	1	80	2 00	1 00	....
Dogwood Grove	"	W T Rogers	2d	12	9	1	..	1	3	126	2 00	50	....
Union.....	"	D T Seale...	4th	6	7	3	4	..	1	58	1 00	65	1 00
Cahaba.....	Jefferson	R Wood....	...	1	2	..	5	1	..	30	75	40	....
SECOND DISTRICT.													
Mt. Zion.....	Shelby..	J A Mullins.	4th	6	2	2	2	..	1	95	1 00	1 00	....
Pleasant Hill...	"	J A Mullins.	2d	9	1	2	2	1	1	69	1 50	2 00	....
Beaver Creek..	"	T P Holcomb	3d	12	4	..	2	2	..	44	1 00	1 00	....
Columbiana....	"	J A Collins.	4th	1	1	..	1	..	..	23	2 00	1 00	....
Mt. Calvary....	"	T P Holcomb	2d	3	..	..	5	4	..	55	1 50	1 50	....
Limeville.....	"	J C Hand...	1st	8	..	..	1	2	1	38	1 50	1 00	2 50
Bethesda.....	"	J D Teague.	3d	..	..	..	2	..	..	43	1 50	1 00	....
THIRD DISTRICT.													
Beulah.....	"	J P Fulmer.	2d	..	3	1	34	4	1	19	75	25	....
*Pleasant Grove	"	J P Fulmer.	3d	1	2	..	12	..	..	16	50	50	....
Concord.....	"	A McDonald.	4th	3	3	..	2	1	..	22	50	2 00	....
Mt. Pleasant..	St. Clair.	J R Gilbert.	3d	10	7	..	4	..	2	61	1 00	....	....
Mt. Pisgah....	"	J P Fulmer.	1st	3	9	..	2	1	..	76	1 50	..	50
Friendship....	Shelby..	T P Holcomb	4th	1	..	..	..	..	..	17	50	50	....
Liberty.....	"	T P Holcomb	1st	3	2	..	..	2	2	101	2 00	2 00	....
*Cook's Spring	St. Clair.	H W Inzer..	...	..	5	..	..	..	..	16	55	50	....
				107	82	12	98	22	14	1226	29 55	20 80	4 00

P. S. In addition to the above the following amounts have been received for Missions:—From Gothard's Flat, 50 cents; from Jas. S. Duyake, \$1.

* Cook's Spring Church—Constituted June 23d, 1860, with 11 members.

Pleasant Grove Church—Constituted March 1st, 1861, with 15 members.



